

ears of the Treasury, a few days before publication The Treasury Solicitor at once threatened the Fabian Society with an injunction, on the ground that Cro\n cop\night was being infringed by their publication of an Official Report He further demanded the immediate \vithdra\\al of the cheap edition If the Treasury imagined that they had caught Webb napping, the) \vere promptly dis-illusionised He pointed out that (a) the copyright belonged to him, since, although he \\as not a membei of the Com-mission, the Report was written by his hand, and (b) that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, in 1887, had issued a Minute, still in force, in which they expressly dis-claimed their pn\\ilege of copyright monopoly so far as oidmary Blue-Books were concerned, and actually encour-aged the re-pi mtmg of them to the public advantage

He further informed them that he and Mrs Webb \\ere, in any e\\ent, going ahead \\with their o\\n private edition All that remained open to the Treasury, therefore, \\as to issue the Official Reports at about half the usual puce When, later, the price of the Webb edition \\as further reduced, the Treasury took the unprecedented course of publishing a fresh octavo edition at a still lower rate Between 1909 and 1914, in fact, fi\\e separate editions of the Minority Report \\ere simultaneously on the market, at differing prices, without, apparently, interfering with one another's sales By 1910, something like twenty -fhe thousand copies of the Minority Report had been sold,

as the Campaign organ, *The Cmsade*,
remarks, "E\en in
the world of popular fiction, the circulation
up-to-date
would be accounted remarkable " Whether all
those who
bought, read, may be dubious, but buy
they did it
was the "book of the day," for quite a number
of days

With the publication of the Report, an
entirely new phase
of the activity of its authors opens one unlike
any that had
gone before. They gave themselves
wholeheartedly up to a